



March 18, 2024

Chair Kari Dziedzic  
State and Local Government and Veterans Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Dziedzic and Committee Members,

My name is Kayla Christensen, and I am the Executive Director of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), a non-profit education and advocacy organization that promotes an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy for Minnesota. We encourage policymakers to embrace innovations in clean and affordable energy based on our conservative principles such as economic growth, property rights, personal stewardship, job growth, and national security. I am writing to you today to share MnCEF’s support for Senate File 4784.

Industries statewide are pushing for permitting reform, and energy is no different. When compared to our neighbors it is clear: Minnesota is not open for business. In July of 2023, MnCEF wrote an LTE that highlighted the frustrations of the permitting process for energy projects and potential investments in our state. Not long after, the PUC established a working group to develop recommendations on how the permitting process could be streamlined and improved without limiting opportunities for public input.

The working group was efficient and productive, and resulted in a list of recommendations that, when combined, can save months in the permitting process. This bill streamlines administrative processes and is a great start at making the process more predictable, transparent, and efficient for developers and investors, making Minnesota competitive in the market. It will also make what is now a confusing and complicated process more accessible and understandable for the public.

We would like to thank PUC Chair Katie Sieben for facilitating the process, and to Senator Frentz for acting on the recommendations and hard work of the working group. MnCEF encourages you to support this important bill—the effects of these reforms will make a tangible difference in the permitting process, getting us closer to our cleaner energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kayla Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kayla" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Christensen".

Kayla Christensen  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum